
OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sSB 218

AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACES FOR PRIMARIES.

SUMMARY:

Current law requires towns to use the same polling place or places for a primary that they use for the corresponding election. This bill authorizes registrars of voters to reduce the number of polling places for a primary, the location of which may be the same or different than the polling places for the election.

If the registrars reduce the number of polling places, they may similarly agree to reduce the number of moderators, provided there is at least one moderator per polling place. The bill requires the polling places for a primary to remain the same as for the corresponding election if the registrars cannot agree to the changes or if any candidate objects.

The bill also makes conforming and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PROCEDURES FOR REDUCING PRIMARY POLLING PLACES

The bill establishes procedures and a timeframe for reducing the number of primary polling places. Specifically:

1. at least 60 days before every primary, the registrars must designate the polling place(s), which may be fewer in number than were used at the last election or will be used at the upcoming election;
2. between 45 and 60 days before the primary, the registrars must notify the secretary of the state and candidates of the change or changes;

3. by 4:00 p.m. on the 30th day before the primary, a candidate who objects to the change must notify the secretary of the state in writing of his or her objection (the secretary must keep the objection confidential);
4. the secretary must promptly notify the registrars of any candidate's objection; and
5. no later than 21 days before the primary, registrars must notify, by mail, each elector whose polling place has changed.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/12/2012)